

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 13, 2003, claims 1-18 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, claims 19-22 and 24-30 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,152,529 to Okada, and claim 23 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected based claim, with the indication that claim 23 would be allowable if it were rewritten in independent form.¹ A petition for a one-month extension of time and the associated fee are submitted herewith.

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 were rejected as being indefinite due to particular language in claim 1. The Examiner's interpretation of the paragraph of claim 1 noted in the Office Action is correct, and claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the Examiner's suggested language.² Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 are not indefinite.

Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of objected-to claim 23 and is thus believed to be allowable, and claims 20 and 21 which depend from amended claim 19 are also believed to be allowable.

Since it is believed that only allowable claims remain, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there is any matter that the Examiner

¹ The statement on page 3 of the Office Action that "Claims 19-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)..." is believed to be a typographical error since the Office Action indicated that claim 23 was objected-to. Also, there does not appear to be a claim 30 in the present application.

² In view of the minor differences between claim 1 as originally drafted and claim 1 as amended, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as originally drafted was definite under §112, second paragraph, and that the amendments made to claim 1 do not narrow the scope of the claim and thus would not preclude application of the doctrine of equivalents.

would like to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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